GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5574
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
SIGNING OF MLAT WITH USA
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;PRABHUNATH SINGH;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the USA propose to conclude a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT);

(b) if so, the main feature thereof;

(c) the time by which the Treaty is likely to be signed;

(d) the number of countries with which the country has signed MLAT; and

(e) the details in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) Yes, Sir. India proposes to conclude a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters with USA.

(b) The Treaty seeks to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the matters of investigation, prosecution and suppression of crime and the tracing, restraint, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime including funds for purposes of terrorism through cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

(c) Negotiations between the two countries are underway. No time frame can be indicated regarding the signing of the agreement.

(d)&(e) India has signed treaties of similar nature with 9(nine) countries which include U.K., Switzerland, Turkey, Canada, France, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and United Arab Emirates.